WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present acceptance Quality/ Level as per Schedule 'R' of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 is 1.5.

(c) The quality of the Condoms produced in the country conforms to the provisions laid down in Schedule 'R' of the Drugs & Cosmetic Rules. The Provisions of Schedule 'R' have been framed keeping in view the requirement of Condoms for use in the country.

[*Translation*]

Biosphere Reserves

972. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of biosphere reserves in the country so far; and

(b) the extent to which the Genetics is being applied in conserving the biological and genetical diversities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY F ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) So far, seven Biosphere Reserves have been set up.

(b) Genetics is applied as an integral component of the various activities relating to surveys, conservation and multiplication of species.

[*English*]

Air Pollution in Cities

973. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the cities which are living under threat of large-scale toxic emissions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce air pollution in those cities particularly in Chandigarh and New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). Government of India has identified 17 critically polluted areas in the country. These areas are: Pali (Rajasthan), Korba (Madhya Pradesh, Talcher (Orissa), Greater Cochin (Kerala), Gobindgarh (Punjab), Manali (Tamil Nadu), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Vapi (Gujarat), Najafgarh (Delhi), Chembur (Maharashtra), Dhankes (Bihar), North Arcot (Tamil Nadu), Bhadrawati (Karnataka), Howrah (West Bengal), Digboi (Assam), Durgapur (West Bengal) and Singrauli (Uttar Pradesh). Air quality in 43 cities are being monitored. In Delhi as well as in Chandigarh the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are well within the prescribed standards, Suspended particulate matter is, at times, on the higher side due to natural dusty conditions.

The steps taken by the Government to reduce pollution include the following:

(1) Emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(2) Ambient air quality standards have been evolved.

(3) A net work of ambient air quality

monitoring stations have been set up.

(4) Metropolitan cities have been notified as Air Pollution Control Areas.

(5) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(6) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to keep the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated limits.

(7) Industries have been directed to install necessary Pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(8) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have ben asked by the State Government to comply with the effluent/emission standards.

(9) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from conjested areas.

(10) Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules 1989. The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the varicus State Transport Directorates to enforce the gross emission standards with effect from 1st March 1990.

(11) Public awareness campaigns have been launched about vehicular pollution.

(12) Prosecutions have been launched by the State Transport Directorate against the vehicle owners for violation of vehicular emission standards under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989. In Addition, certificates of witness/pollution control certificate of polluting vehicles are cancelled and their owners are instructed to comply with the prescribed standards before issue of fresh certificates.

(13) Epidemiological studies have been initiated in heavily polluted areas.

Railway Projects in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh

974. SHRIMATI RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway projects that were started during 1991-92 in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the year of completion of each of these projects and th cost thereof; and

(c) the details of the railway projects proposed to b started during the Eighth Plan in the above State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). A statement is attached.

(c) Eighth Plan has not yet been finalised.